

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancel)
2. (Currently amended) A method of screening for a disorder suppressor gene, wherein said method comprises the steps of:
  - (a) expressing in a cell a nucleic acid ~~derived from~~ obtained from or synthesized from a nucleic acid obtained from a tissue of an organism suffering from a disorder that accompanies cell death, wherein said tissue is ~~derived from an area affected by the disorder or from the vicinity of the affected area~~ obtained from an organ affected by the disorder;
  - (b) detecting a suppressive effect on the disorder due to the expression of the nucleic acid; and,
  - (c) selecting the nucleic acid having the suppressive effect;  
thereby identifying a disorder suppressor gene.
3. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a disorder suppressor polypeptide or a disorder suppressor gene encoding said polypeptide, wherein said method comprises the steps of:
  - (a) administering to a cell (i) a polypeptide derived from a tissue of an organism suffering from a disorder that accompanies cell death, or (ii) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid derived from said tissue, wherein said tissue is derived from an area affected by the disorder or from the vicinity of the affected area.

(b) detecting a suppressive effect on the disorder due to the expression of the nucleic acid, and,

(c) selecting the nucleic acid having the suppressive effect.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 2 or 3~~, comprising the step of inducing the cell death associated with said disorder before, during or after step (a), and detecting the suppressive effect on the disorder in step (b) using the suppression of cell death as an index.

5. (Currently amended) A The method according to ~~any one of claims 2 + to 3~~, wherein said disorder is a disorder of the cranial nervous system.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said disorder of the cranial nervous system is Alzheimer's Disease.

7. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid ~~or polypeptide is derived from~~ is obtained from or synthesized from a nucleic acid obtained from a tissue of ~~the~~ a nerve or brain.

8. (Currently amended) A method for testing a suppressive effect of a nucleic acid on a disorder, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

(a) expressing in a cell a nucleic acid ~~derived from~~ obtained from or synthesized from a nucleic acid obtained from a tissue of an organism suffering from a disorder that accompanies cell death, wherein said tissue is ~~derived from an area affected by the disorder or from the vicinity of the affected area~~ obtained from an organ affected by the disorder, and,

(b) detecting the suppressive effect on the disorder due to the expression of the nucleic acid;

thereby identifying a suppressive effect of a nucleic acid on the disorder.

9. (Withdrawn) A method for testing a suppressive effect of a polypeptide on a disorder, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

- (a) administering to a cell (i) a polypeptide derived from a tissue of an organism suffering from a disorder that accompanies cell death, or (ii) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid derived from said tissue, wherein said tissue is derived from an area affected by the disorder or from the vicinity of the affected area; and
- (b) detecting the suppressive effect on the disorder due to the administration of the polypeptide.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8 or 9, comprising the step of inducing the cell death associated with said disorder before, during or after step (a), and detecting the suppressive effect on the disorder in the step (b) using the suppression of cell death as an index.

11. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein said disorder is a disorder of the cranial nervous system.

12. (Original) The method according to 11, wherein said disorder of the cranial nervous system is Alzheimer's Disease.

13. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 11, wherein said nucleic acid or polypeptide is derived from is obtained from or synthesized from a nucleic acid obtained from a tissue of the a nerve or brain.

14. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein said disorder is a neurodegenerative disease.

15. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein said disorder is a neurodegenerative disease.

16. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein said tissue is obtained from an area of the organ affected by said disorder.

17. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein said tissue is obtained from an area of the organ affected by said disorder.

18. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of nucleic acids that cause the suppressive effect are identified, further comprising:

(d) cross-hybridizing the nucleic acids to each other to identify non-redundant groups.

19. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein a plurality of nucleic acids that cause the suppressive effect are identified, further comprising:

(d) cross-hybridizing the nucleic acids to each other to identify non-redundant groups.

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Amdt. dated June 14, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of February 12, 2004

PATENT

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 1. The replacement sheets, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet  
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes